ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A terminal apparatus into which one of a first and a second memory card is selectively inserted. The first memory card is designed to store contents subject to copyright protection whereas the second memory card is arranged to accommodate contents not subject to copyright protection. The two cards are substantially the same in shape. If a user inadvertently inserts the second memory card into the apparatus in order to record contents subject to copyright protection, the contents are allowed to be recorded to the inserted card at a lowered level of data quality. This averts an outright failure to record copyright-protected contents for which the user has properly paid to a copyright-noncompliant memory card.